

2 Red China Subs Get A-Missile Launchers

By United Press International

Communist China has equipped its two largest submarines with launchers for nuclear missiles.

The U.S. Navy has solid evidence that three vertical launching tubes capable of hurling missiles 380 miles have been placed aboard each of the subs, now nearing completion at Dairen in Southern Manchuria.

This was approximately the range of a nuclear-tipped missile the Chinese claimed to have tested successfully Oct. 27, 1966.

Sources said there is no evidence so far that missiles have actually been brought aboard the Chinese subs, and it is assumed that Red China will lose no time making it known when it reaches the point it could bring the United States under nuclear attack.

The two submarines equipped with missile launchers, although conventionally powered and no match for atom-driven submarines in speed and range, could make it possible for the Chinese to make a nuclear strike on the United States years before their intercontinental missiles are perfected.

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Chinese newspapers and official sources have conceded that their nation's industrial and atomic centers are open to easy destruction by U.S. nuclear weapons.

An ability to strike back, their argument goes, would at least improve their bargaining position with the United States.

One of the Chinese missile subs is already in commission and the other is almost finished, according to Navy evidence.

They are patterned after the Russian G-2 type sub — 320 feet long and displacing 2,350 tons. With three diesel engines providing a ~~total~~ of 6,000 horsepower,

they are capable of 45,400-mile round-trips without refueling.

In addition to the missile launchers they each have six torpedo tubes.

The Chinese also have 21 smaller submarines of the 245-foot W class. Their operating radius is estimated at 13,000 to 16,000 miles — far enough to reach U.S. waters.

The smaller subs also have six torpedo tubes each, and presumably could be equipped to set off floating nuclear explosives at sea. Scientists have pointed out that prevailing winds would carry radioactivity from such explosions in the Pacific across the United States.

The Chinese submarine fleet is believed to consist of 31 vessels, but eight are coastal types. Their surface fleet is estimated at 450 vessels manned by 125,000 sailors. The largest are four Russian-type destroyers.